

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 6, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Upon entry of this response, claims 1-10 and 13-50 will be pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 13, 32, 43, 46, and 48 are independent claims. Claim 1, 43, and 45 have been amended exclusively for the purpose of clarity and have not been amended in view of any prior art. No new matter has been added. Claims 11-12 having previously been cancelled, claims 1-10 and 13-50 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejection of Claims 43-47 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 43-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 43-47 are in allowable form.

The above amendment of claim 43 directly addresses the comments included in the rejection thereof and renders the rejection thereof moot. Since claims 44 and 45 were only rejected for being dependent upon claim 43, the amendment of claim 43 likewise renders the rejections of claims 44 and 45 moot.

With respect to claim 46, it is alleged in the Office Action that “said first pipeline cycle”, recited on line 10 thereof, lacks antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully disagree and point out that line 2 of claim 46 recites “a first pipeline cycle”, which provides antecedent basis for the subject matter recited on claim 10.

It is also alleged in the Office Action that “a network to said network”, as recited on line 5 of claim 46, is unclear. Applicants again respectfully disagree and point out that claim 10 actually recites sending a packet “from a user of a network to said network”. Applicants also respectfully submit that one of skill in the art would understand that a user of a network would be able to, according to the claimed invention, send a packet to the network. Therefore, Applicants further submit that claim 46 does not suffer from a lack of clarity.

At least in view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested. Also, since claim 47 was only rejected for being dependent upon claim 46, at least in view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is also requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

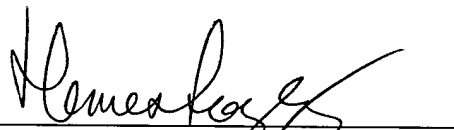
Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-4, 6-10, 13-42, and 48-50. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the comments included in the Office Action have been addressed and that the rejection included therein has been overcome. Hence, Applicants respectfully further submit that claims 1-10 and 13-50 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all claims pending in the present application be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hermes M. Soyez', is written over a horizontal line.

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